

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
DECEMBER 17, 2009
NICHOLS ROOM

Meeting called to order by John Russell at 7:30. In attendance were Mary Ellen LeMay, Dale Parsons, Joanne Parsons, Don Watson, and Julie Jenkins. Also in attendance were Tony Silber from Trumbull Planning and Zoning and Sue Silvers from the Connecticut Post.

Jill Smyth from the Merritt Parkway Conservancy spoke about the clearing of trees on the Merritt Parkway and improvements to the roadway. 18,000 plants/shrubs/trees are being planted to help replace the ones being removed. She focused on the results of the improvements in the Greenwich area, and in her opinion, and the opinion of the conservancy, the new plantings do not measure up to the landscape that was removed. White pines are soft wood trees and are more likely to come down in wind or with snow and ice. Joanne spoke about plantings she has witnessed along the Merritt through the years, and typically the decisions about what to plant, where to plant, and how to plant have been poorly made. Mary Ellen wondered if the DOT would be able to hold a town meeting in Trumbull about the plans for this area of the Merritt. Jill gave Mary Ellen a name of the contact from DOT for the project. Joanne asked about the maintenance contract and a guarantee on the plantings. Jill said there is a 1 year warranty on the plantings and protection of the plantings. Don wanted to know what the Conservation Commission can do to help the Merritt Parkway Conservancy. The DOT is using all native species, except where this cannot be accomplished. Connecticut does not allow volunteers to be in the right of way to help trim vines out and thin plantings. In the spring there will be an inspection of the median plantings and Jill would like us to be involved in the decision making process. Jill left at 8:20.

Mary Ellen spoke about the magnet high school planned. It is west of Route 25 and up on top of a hill. It is state land located in Trumbull. It is being built to accommodate 1500 students, 70% from Bridgeport.

The election of officers will be postponed until the next meeting which will be January 28, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted by Julie Jenkins.